

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application. The Examiner acknowledges Applicants' election of claims 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15, while claims 1-8, 11, 14 and 16-21 are withdrawn. Claims 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15 have been rejected. Claims 9, 13 and 15 have been amended, leaving claims 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15 for consideration upon entry of the present amendment. No new matter was introduced by this amendment. Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of the claims.

Substitute Specification

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.125, Applicants have submitted a marked-up version and a clean version of a substitute specification, excluding the claims and abstract. The amendment thereto reflects deletion of "silicon" and replacement with -- silicone -- throughout the substitute specification.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,147,724 to Yoshii et al. (Yoshii) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,815,224 to Hasegawa et al. (Hasegawa) for the reasons stated on pages 3-5 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse for at least the reason stated below.

The Examiner states that Yoshii discloses all of the elements of independent claims 9 and 15, except for the particle interceptor being formed in a shape of a closed loop, which the Examiner states is disclosed in Figure 43 of Hasegawa. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to construct a liquid crystal display apparatus as taught by Yoshii wherein the particle interceptor is formed of a closed loop as in Hasegawa.

However, it is respectfully submitted that both Yoshii and Hasegawa, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest "the second supporting member frame portion (of an LCD panel supporting member) fixing the liquid crystal display panel" as recited

in the amended claims 9 and 15 of the present application. For example, a frame spacer (WSPC) that is disclosed in Yoshii **only supports** a glass substrate SUB1 (as shown in FIG. 4A). However, an LCD panel supporting member according to the present application **supports** the LCD panel via a particle interceptor and **fixes** the LCD panel (as shown in FIGS. 9 to 11). Therefore, independent claims 9 and 15 define over Yoshii in view of Hasegawa.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 9 and 15, including claims depending therefrom, i.e., claims 10, 12 and 13 are patentable over Yoshii in view of Hasegawa.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection to claims 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15 under § 103 be withdrawn.

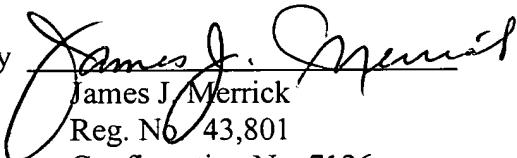
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicants' attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

CANTOR COLBURN LLP

By 
James J. Merrick
Reg. No. 43,801
Confirmation No. 7126
Cantor Colburn LLP
55 Griffin Road South
Bloomfield, CT 06002
PTO Customer No. 23413
Telephone: (860) 286-2929
Fax: (860) 286-0115

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